

Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes of February 21, 2013

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)  
Eugene Sun, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Mitchell Englander, rep by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles  
Gail Farber, rep by Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep by Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep by Mohen Nazemi, South Coast Air Quality Management District

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles  
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Glenn Acosta, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
George Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC  
Natalie Jimenez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Armine Kesablian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Katie Mac, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Stephanie Martin, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Linda Lee Miller, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Primitivo Nunez, CalRecycle  
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita  
Edwin Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management Districts  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Chris Sheppard, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

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Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles  
Mary Goytia Strauss, City of La Cañada Flintridge  
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:15 p.m.

Ms. Margaret Clark introduced Mohsen Nazemi who will be taking the place of Jay Chen representing the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to invite Mr. Chen to a future meeting to express appreciation of service with cake and a certificate. Ms. Nicole Bernson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2013, MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion passed with abstentions from Nicole Bernson, Mary Ann Lutz, Mohsen Nazemi, Chris Salomon, and Eugene Sun.

**III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION & INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Mohajer reported the Winter Edition of *Inside Solid Waste* was electronically distributed February 21, 2013. The subcommittee discussed the following articles for the next publication: conversion technologies, Generation Earth for secondary schools, legislation, update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill odor problem, AB 341 update, composting regulation, PaintCare, Sanitation Districts environmental programs, Earth Day and the grand opening of the EDCO Environmental Collection Center in Signal Hill. He also mentioned there's a new organization called the Bioenergy Association of California, whose goal is to promote the development of low-temperature conversion technology facilities using anaerobic digestion and possibly fermentation.

**IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (ATAS)**

Mr. George Gomez gave the following update on the conversion technology project development: The Technical consultant is currently finalizing an updated Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) to expand the technology and financial company database currently available on [www.SoCalConversion.org](http://www.SoCalConversion.org). Upon the County's approval, the RFEI will be released to all applicable companies the County is aware of. The RFEI will also be posted on the County's CT website and sent out via the County's listserve. The County is also continuing to promote the CT Survey that is currently available on the [SoCalConversion.org](http://SoCalConversion.org) website. The City of Avalon has been considering the possibility of integrating a CT

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project with their active procurement for waste collection/landfill operation. The City of Long Beach is continuing to consider development of a CT project and has been in communication with the County about options for proceeding. IRS Demolition continues its independent work in considering a potential CT project in the City of South Gate; Public Works' consultant prepared a project summary for their use in pursuing potential grant opportunities. The County, with the assistance of its consultant, continues to monitor key state funding opportunities.

Mr. Gomez also gave an update on outreach activities. He stated the County had a very successful participation at the VerdeXchange Conference on February 3-5 2013. There was high participation at their 3 panels, and they gathered approximately 50 new signups to their e-newsletter, most of who also indicated their support for the County pursuing CT legislation.

Mr. Gomez noted that the Conversion Technology Action Plan was unanimously approved by the Subcommittee. He also reported that Senator Ricardo Lara will be the author of a conversion technology Bill that will be introduced this week. Additional information will be provided at the next Task Force meeting.

Mr. Pat Proano added the County actively pursued Senator Lara to author the Bill, and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) will co-sponsor the Bill. Next Monday and Tuesday they will be meeting with key stakeholders in Sacramento, including representatives from the Governor's office, the Assembly Speaker's office, the director of CalEPA, CalRecycle, Secretary of the Natural Resources Department, CARB, and the Energy Commission. It will be a Spot Bill for now with full language to be released in March or April. This may be a multi-year effort, and people are waiting for the County's lead.

Mr. Proano stated the County is trying a different approach and does not want to make the same mistake that was made with AB 222. The County is trying to meet with the agencies and address the issues as much as it can in order to get their support. Mr. Mike Mohajer disagreed with Mr. Proano's comment. Mr. Mohajer explained that the AB 222 sponsors met with CalRecycle, CARB, and the Energy Commission. They wrote a letter in support of AB 222. He added "We did it, except we had Kip Lipper, Chief of Staff to the Senate President Protemp and they just played dirty."

Mr. Proano, added that we are presenting ourselves as an agency that has a wide variety of programs to manage waste including household hazardous waste. We have sharps programs and landfills; and CTs is one of the many tools we have to manage our waste. We do not want for people to have the impression that all we do is CTs; that was the misunderstanding last time around. We are trying to create a level playing field and we also making the case that CTs are more environmentally friendly. Also we are tracking the waste; we are

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gathering data to support any kinds of claims. We are hoping to have a rational adult discussion. The Senator has offered to meet with Kip Lipper personally.

Mr. Proano requested support from the Task Force to get behind the bill. Mr. Mohajer added that yesterday the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) and Californians Against Waste held a meeting at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) presenting AB 341. One of the things that they defined is that the word "diversion" to them means "disposal" and that is why the AB 341 plan is taking away the diversion credit for ADC and beneficial use. This means that there is no difference between diversion activities and disposal activities at a landfill. They also raised issues about conversion technologies, that it is applicable only to the 25% residual that remains if the 75% goal in AB 341 is achieved.

**V. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY PLAN & REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (FPRS)**

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the subcommittee reviewed the Proposed Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center. Upon requesting Waste Management to provide more detailed information on the Reclaimable Anaerobic Composter at the Landfill, the subcommittee agreed to postpone consideration of the FOC until the next meeting.

Mr. Pat Proano added that Waste Management and Harvest Power approached the County about building an anaerobic digestion conversion technology facility at the Landfill and indicated the County fully supports its development.

**VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE LANCASTER LANDFILL**

Tabled until the March 21, 2013, meeting.

**VII. SWANA'S WHITE PAPER – 75% DIVERSION AND BEYOND**

Mr. Glenn Acosta, of the Sanitation Districts gave the [attached presentation](#) on the [SWANA's White Paper](#). He invited the Task Force to attend the SWANA Spring Conference, March 5, 2013, 8:30 a.m., at the Sempra Energy Center, 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey, CA. More information can be found at <http://www.scwmf.org/web/forum-events/spring-conference/>.

Mr. Nazemi commented that California Bio Mass has been operating for years but just recently started accepting restaurant grease. With the composting of that grease they created a significant odor issue that residents could smell over a mile away, and every time the material is moved, the residents complain. The AQMD doesn't want to get rid of composting, but if they relocate to an area where not many are around it should be okay. AQMD also supports the new

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technologies, but a problem they experience is the companies attempting to utilize the technologies are not familiar with the air quality regulations and acquire grants without speaking with them first. He believes it would be beneficial if government agencies would educate the companies on what regulations they need to comply with and how to do it.

Mr. Mike Mohajer added the Facility Plan Review Subcommittee wants to help out Waste Management and Harvest Power with their plans to build a facility. He added that in regards to California Bio Mass, the odor issues started when AB 341 went into effect and food waste and grease came into play. He mentioned the City of La Quinta is allocating money for a study on the odors and a possible law suit against the Riverside Board of Supervisors who granted a permit to the facility. Mr. Acosta added they want conversion technologies to be subject to the same air quality regulations as everything else and having a zero emission requirement does not help build facilities. Ms. Landis said she's not happy with composting facilities because of the potential trouble with composting plants. There's a wide range of unknowns because some plants can contain heavy metals, contaminates, and infectious diseases. They need to be careful and ensure the type of green material and organics are clean enough to produce good composting material. The problem she sees is that they're mixing all green waste and organics when green waste comes from a lot of different places and not just farmer's field materials. There needs to be someone that can do an analysis of all the waste coming in because it won't all disappear through a simple composting process and the temperatures may not be sufficient enough to kill off all the vectors. Mr. Proano clarified that Harvest Power would be producing high-quality compost that will be sold to farmers.

**VIII. UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA PAINTCARE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Ms. Armine Kesabyan reported that staff is still reviewing the draft PaintCare agreement prepared by County Counsel. Staff has begun promoting PaintCare's take-back locations on the HHW flyers and will also post information on the HHW website. She stated that at the last California Product Stewardship Council's (CPSC) meeting, agencies mentioned residents were complaining about PaintCare locations turning them away.

Ms. Kesabyan reported that County Counsel has been actively following other counties on their approach with PaintCare contracts. Mr. Mike Mohajer stated PaintCare has sued CalRecycle for adding requirements for their plan. The Los Angeles Superior Court heard the issue, and the judge verbally questioned the legality of PaintCare being able to collect and do business in the cities. Ms. Kesabyan mentioned that County Counsel was present at the trial setting conference as well and had spoken with CalRecycle's counsel who felt that PaintCare may not be eligible to collect in California. The next hearing on this matter is set for July 16.

## **IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Coby Skye presented five bills to the Task Force, AB 158, AB 323, AB 513, SB 254 and SB 405. Mr. Pat Proano made a motion to support AB 158 with a second from Ms. Betsey Landis. Mike Mohajer suggested not to take action on any of the bills, since February 22 is the last day to submit bills and there would likely be changes. The Task Force agreed, and the motion was withdrawn.

## **X. OVERVIEW OF THE CARB REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

Mr. Chris Sheppard gave the [attached overview](#) of the CARB Report to the Legislature. After the report, Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to CARB stating they have failed to address the issue of life cycle analysis in relation to the mandatory commercial recycling regulations. Ms. Nicole Bernson seconded the motion and suggested removing the word “failed.” Mr. Pat Proano asked Mike and Nicole to amend the motion to include a request to compare the data of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills versus emissions from conversion technologies. The amendment was accepted and the motion passed unanimously.

## **XI. PROPOSED REGULATIONS: SAFER CONSUMER PRODUCT REGULATIONS**

Mr. Gabriel Arenas presented an update of the development of the Regulations for Safer Consumer Product Alternatives that the Department of Toxic Substances Control is proposing. The regulations are part of the Green Chemistry initiative proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2007. The proposed regulations will create a process for the identification and prioritization of chemicals of concern in consumer products as well a process for analyzing safer alternatives to chemicals of concern in consumer products. Mr. Arenas reviewed previous comments submitted by the Task Force for earlier versions of the proposed regulations and stated that staff has reviewed the current proposed regulations and believe they are well written with a very strong Extended Producer Responsibility requirement as one of End of Life Management Regulatory Responses. He added that the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) recently sent comments regarding concerns the Task Force shares. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send comments to DTSC for the proposed regulations. Ms. Landis seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

## **XII. CALRECYCLE**

Mr. Primitivo Nunez reported on the following:

- The local assistance staff is preparing for the Two- and Four-Year review for years 2008-2011 taking place April 16, 2013. Jurisdictions are not required to attend, but there will be a webcast.
- CAP and Trade is included in the governor's budget proposal relating to organic waste, and bio energy and composting.
- There are several meetings and workshops coming up to develop a plan for the option proceed from the CAP and Trade and a program to reduce greenhouse gases. The first meeting is in Southern California on February 27 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Ronald Regan Building. For those who cannot attend, there will be a webcast of the February 25 meeting in Sacramento.
- They are still receiving input of the 75% statewide recycling initiative and mandate placed by AB 341. There will be a workshop on March 19 in Sacramento after the public monthly meeting. It is the first introductory workshop and many more will take place. Comments are still being accepted via the web or in person.
- The RMDZ program will be hosting a workshop on March 14 for local zone administrators to provide feedback on the proposed program changes.
- The Beverage Container Recycling program will be hosting public workshops on February 26 and March 25 to review the statutes for people importing beverage container material into recyclables into California. A draft of the proposed regulations and special provisions will be distributed at the workshops.
- EPR & Paint, CalRecycle will continue to implement the responsibilities under 1343 and allow the legal process to take place.
- Tire Grants will be awarded around March check the website for more information. The Beverage Container City/County Payment Program due date for all requests is March 4. Beverage Container Competitive grant applications will be released in April. The HHW grant program is due February 21.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that CalRecycle decided EPR is no longer eligible under the HHW grant. He suggested that since comments are due today, at the Task Forces' agreement, he would send an e-mail to CalRecycle expressing concern regarding HD-20 HHW Grants criteria excluding EPR. Ms. Betsey Landis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013, in Conference Room B.

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**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the Public.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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